

TOP SECRET

26 JUN 1947 - undated

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

Reference is made to the attached letter addressed to you under date of 16 June 1947, with its enclosure, as prepared by Mr. Edward S. Greenbaum, which was turned over to me by General Vandenberg. The letter and its enclosure appear to be an additional phase of a campaign being conducted for personal reasons.

The National Intelligence Authority, far from having been "sold a bill of goods" by the Director of Central Intelligence, had very sound reasons for its decisions with regard to clandestine intelligence—as established by N.I.A. Directive No. 5. Its decision in this regard has been upheld and fully approved by all departmental intelligence agencies and by the most reputable national personalities having real knowledge of such operations. It is regrettable that Mr. Greenbaum should become involved on the side of interests which are daily becoming a real threat to the firm and intelligent establishment of a national intelligence service.

As you know, The Central Intelligence Group has preserved a positive passion for anonymity. As a result it has been placed in the position of "taking" much public criticism without the personal satisfaction of public rebuttal. This is the only proper position for a national intelligence agency to maintain. It is interesting to note that all criticism published in the sensational press bears the same pattern, in fact repeatedly uses the same phrases and expressions. We have information that they emanate from the same source.

There exists no real authority on national intelligence matters who does not agree that espionage and counter espionage, as pertaining to foreign intelligence, must be conducted by one government agency as a service to all. Not only security but economy and efficiency indicate the soundness of this reasoning. If we subscribe to the principle of a Central Intelligence Agency then it would appear proper that this agency conduct such service.

Director's File

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It is only proper that you be cognizant of the probable reason for the opposition to the principles enunciated above. During the early period of the war, in the absence of any centralized intelligence system, it became necessary for many departmental agencies to engage in clandestine and semi-clandestine operations in the foreign field. These activities, to a great extent, were later reduced in light of the growing operations of OSS. Upon the cessation of hostilities, there arose a new need for such operations on the part of departmental agencies in view of the gradual liquidation of the OSS-SIS effort. These activities were continued on quite an extensive scale until quite recently, when they were directed to cease in order to implement N.I.A. Directive No. 5. It is quite natural and human that the individuals most interested in the continuation of these clandestine operations should be greatly concerned over the cessation of their activities.

I am firmly convinced that the national interests require strict adhesion to the principles enunciated in N.I.A. Directive No. 5 and urgently recommend your personal insistence in this regard.

A proposed draft of reply to Mr. Greenglass is attached hereto.

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R. H. WILLINGRITTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director Central Intelligence.

dej + 1cc - by hand DCI

1cc - destroyed (for DD file)

1cc - DCI file w/encd - unclassified

1cc - Sent to TS Control 12/16/49 w/encd

By hand? Dir
to 6/10 - 26 June '47

TOP SECRET

DRAFT

Brigadier General Edward S. Groombarn
Groombarn, Wolff and Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Eddie:

Many thanks for your letter of 16 June 1947 and its enclosure. As indicated in our recent phone conversation, I am greatly interested in that phase of the National Security Act of 1947 which pertains to activities of the proposed Central Intelligence Agency. My position as a member of the National Intelligence Authority as well as Secretary of War of course stresses such interest.

We are carefully considering all phases of national intelligence activities and have discussed the matter with the recognized leaders in this field. We must be certain that full advantage is taken of past errors and successes in this regard.

I fully appreciate your interest and desire to be helpful in this matter and welcome any additional data you may obtain. I would be most interested in knowing who prepared the enclosure to your letter.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT P. PATTERSON
Secretary of War.

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DIRECT REPLY

ACTION

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COMMENT

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PREPARATION OF REPLY

FILE

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REMARKS:

Re Mees to See War.

Suggest you have me to see
 war personally tomorrow. R. M.
 Done - R. M.